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APPENDIX I:

THE LISTING OF CLAIMS (version with markings):

1. (original) A biodegradable thermoplastic molding composition comprising
 - a) at least one biodegradable thermoplastic copolyester, and
 - b) based on the total weight of the thermoplastic molding composition, from 0.01 to 15% by weight of at least one hydrophobicized phyllosilicate.
2. (original) A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, where the distance between the layers in the hydrophobicized phyllosilicate in the molding composition is from 5 to 200 Å.
3. (previously presented) A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, where the phyllosilicate prior to its hydrophobicization has a cation-exchange capacity of at least 50 milliequivalents per 100 g.
4. (currently amended) A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~[wherein] wherein the hydrophobicized phyllosilicates [the metal ions have been at least to some extent exchanged for] comprises organic or inorganic cations [which have at least one organic radical].~~
5. (currently amended) A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, where the copolyester contains at least three components selected from ~~[the class] a group consisting of components A and B, and[,-if desired,] optionally contains~~ one or more ~~[other]~~ further components C, ~~[where]~~ wherein
 - = component A ~~[comprises]~~ is at least one dicarboxylic acid, ~~[or]~~ an ester-forming derivative of a dicarboxylic acid or a mixture of these,
 - = component B ~~[comprises]~~ is at least one diol component, and
 - = component C ~~[comprises]~~ is selected from tri- and polyols, di- and polyamines, amino alcohols, hydroxycarboxylic acids, amicocarboxylic acids, tri- and polycarboxylic acids, bisoxazolines and isocyanates.
6. (currently amended) A molding composition as claimed in claim 5, in which the copolyester ~~[contains,]~~ comprises

- = as component A, from 30 to 95 mol% of at least one aliphatic dicarboxylic acid and from 5 to 70 mol% of at least one aromatic dicarboxylic acid,
wherein the dicarboxylic acids are employed in form of the acid, an [or] ester-forming [derivatives] derivative of [these dicarboxylic acids] the acid, or a mixture [mixtures] of the dicarboxylic acids and their ester-forming derivatives, and[,
- = as component B, at least one diol component selected from the group consisting of C₂-C₁₂ alkanediols and C₅-C₁₀ cycloalkane-diols and mixtures [of these] thereof.

7. (previously presented) A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, where the content of other additives is from 0.1 to 70% by weight, based on the content of copolyester.
8. (previously presented) A process for preparing molding compositions as claimed in claim 1, where at least one copolyester and at least one hydrophobicized phyllosilicate are mixed, and are homogenized with softening or melting, at least of the copolyester.
9. (previously presented) A process for preparing molding compositions as claimed in claim 1, where at least some of the components constituting the copolyester are mixed and/or homogenized with the hydrophobicized phyllosilicate, the remainder of the components are added, and the resultant mixture is reacted, forming a copolyester comprising the phyllosilicate.
10. (previously presented) A molding, a film or a fiber obtainable from molding compositions as claimed in claim 1.
11. (new) A molding composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydrophobicized phyllosilicate comprises oxonium, ammonium, phosphonium or sulfonium cations which optionally carry one or more organic radicals.
12. (new) A molding composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cations optionally carry one or two organic radicals.
13. (new) A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrophobicized phyllosilicate is obtained by reacting a non-hydrophobicized phyllosilicate with a hydrophobicizer selected from oxonium, ammonium, phosphonium and sulfonium ions which carry at least one organic radical.

14. (new) A molding composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ester-forming derivative is a di-C₁-C₆-alkyl ester or an anhydride of the dicarboxylic acid.
15. (new) A molding composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ester-forming derivative is a di-C₁-C₆-alkyl ester or an anhydride of the dicarboxylic acid.